



EPA delays new ozone pollution standards until after the 2024 election



Pollution obscures the skyline of downtown as the sun rises over Denver, on Feb. 28, 2019.
Associated Press

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EPA delays new ozone pollution standards until after the 2024 election

From Front

By **MATTHEW DALY**
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Environmental Protection Agency is delaying plans to tighten air quality standards for ground-level ozone — better known as smog — despite a recommendation by a scientific advisory panel to lower air pollution limits to protect public health.

The decision by EPA Administrator Michael Regan means that one of the agency's most important air quality regulations will not be updated until well after the 2024 presidential election.

"I have decided that the best path forward is to initiate a new statutory review of the ozone (standard) and the underlying air quality criteria," Regan wrote in a letter to the EPA advisory panel last month. The letter cites "several issues" raised by the panel in a recent report that "warrant additional evaluation and review." The review, which will last at least two years, will "ensure that air quality standards reflect the latest science in order to best protect people from pollution," Regan said.

Regan's decision avoids an election year battle with industry groups and Republicans who have complained about what they consider overly intrusive

EPA rules on power plants, refineries, automobiles and other polluters.

The delay marks the second time in 12 years that a Democratic administration has put off a new ozone standard prior to an election year. President Barack Obama shut down plans to tighten ozone standards in 2011, leading to a four-year delay before the standards were updated in 2015.

Paul Billings, senior vice president of the American Lung Association, called the EPA's decision "profoundly disappointing" and a missed opportunity to protect public health and promote environmental justice. A recent report by the lung association showed that minority communities bear a disproportionate burden from ground-level ozone, which occurs when air pollution from cars, power plants and other sources mixes with sunlight. The problem is particularly acute in urban areas.

Billings called the ozone rule "the public health cornerstone of the Clean Air Act," adding that "millions of people will breathe dirty air for many more years" as a result of the delay. An increased number of asthma attacks, sick days and even premature death are likely to occur, he and other public health advocates said. Raul Garcia, vice president of policy and legislation for Earthjustice,

called the delay "shameful" and unjustified. "The science tells us we are long overdue," Garcia said.

Democratic lawmakers also were disappointed. "Inaction threatens public health and puts those with underlying conditions such as asthma or lung disease at an elevated risk," said Rhode Island Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse. He and 51 other Democrats had urged swift action on a new rule.

"Unfortunately we've seen the process for updating the ozone standards repeatedly swept up in political games that risk lives," the lawmakers said in an Aug. 7 letter to the EPA.

Conor Bernstein, a spokesman for the National Mining Association, applauded the EPA's decision "not to race ahead with an unnecessary revision of the ozone standards," which have not been changed since 2015. The current standard was reaffirmed in December 2020 under then-President Donald Trump, a Republican. Bernstein, whose members produce coal and other fossil fuels, urged officials to reconsider other regulations that he said target coal-fired power plants and endanger reliability of the electric grid. "It's clear — and deeply alarming — that EPA (does not) understand the cumulative impact its rules will have on the grid and the nation's severely stressed power sup-



Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Michael Regan speaks at the University of Maryland, May 11, 2023, in College Park, Md.

Associated Press

ply," he said.

A spokeswoman for the American Petroleum Institute, the top lobbying group for the oil and gas industry, said current ozone limits are among the most stringent in the world. "Any tightening of the standard could impact energy costs, threaten U.S. energy security and impact businesses and American consumers," spokeswoman Andrea Woods said in an email.

The EPA's decision comes after two advisory panels — the EPA's Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee and the White House Environmental Justice Advisory Council — urged the agency to lower the current ozone standard of 70 parts per billion.

"Based on the scientific evidence currently available, it is concluded that the level of the current standard is

not protective with an adequate margin of safety," the EPA panel said in a June report. A limit of 55 to 60 parts per billion "is more likely to be protective and to provide an adequate margin of safety," the panel said.

Lianne Sheppard, a University of Washington biostatistics professor who chairs the scientific advisory panel, said Regan's decision was "his alone" to make.

The White House environmental justice council, meanwhile, cited the "horrible toll of air pollution" and its disproportionate effect on minority communities. In a letter to the White House, co-chairs Richard Moore and Peggy Shepard said the problem is "compounded by the inadequate monitoring and enforcement in many of our communities." □



President Joe Biden's son Hunter Biden leaves after a court appearance, Wednesday, July 26, 2023, in Wilmington, Del.

Associated Press

By **LINDSAY WHITEHURST**
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Federal prosecutors plan to ask

a grand jury to indict President Joe Biden's son Hunter by the end of the month, according to court docu-

Prosecutors seeking new indictment for Hunter Biden before end of September

ments filed Wednesday.

The exact charges the president's son would face were not immediately clear, but appeared related to a gun possession charge in which he was accused of having a firearm while being a drug user. He has also been under investigation by federal prosecutors for his business dealings.

U.S. Attorney for Delaware David Weiss, newly named a special counsel in the case, referred to a seeking an indictment before Sept. 29 in a status report

required by Judge Maryellen Noreika.

Defense attorneys have argued that an agreement sparing Hunter Biden from prosecution on a felony gun charge remains in place. It was part of a plea deal on misdemeanor tax offenses that fell apart during a court appearance in July.

Biden was charged in June with two misdemeanor crimes of failure to pay more than \$100,000 in taxes from over \$1.5 million in income in both 2017

and 2018. He had been expected to plead guilty in July, after he made an agreement with prosecutors, who were planning to recommend two years of probation. The case fell apart during the hearing after Noreika, who was appointed by President Donald Trump, raised multiple concerns about the specifics of the deal and her role in the proceedings.

Attorneys for Biden did not immediately return messages seeking comment Wednesday. □

Legal fights over voting districts could play role in control of Congress for 2024

By DAVID A. LIEB
Associated Press

Democrats got a potential boost for the 2024 congressional elections as courts in Alabama and Florida ruled recently that Republican-led legislatures had unfairly diluted the voting power of Black residents.

But those cases are just two of about a dozen that could carry big consequences as Republicans campaign to hold onto their slim majority in the U.S. House of Representatives. Another trial alleging racial violations in voting districts got underway Tuesday in Georgia, where Democrats also hope to make gains, while voting rights advocates in Ohio decided to drop a legal challenge to that state's congressional districts providing a bit of good news for Republicans.

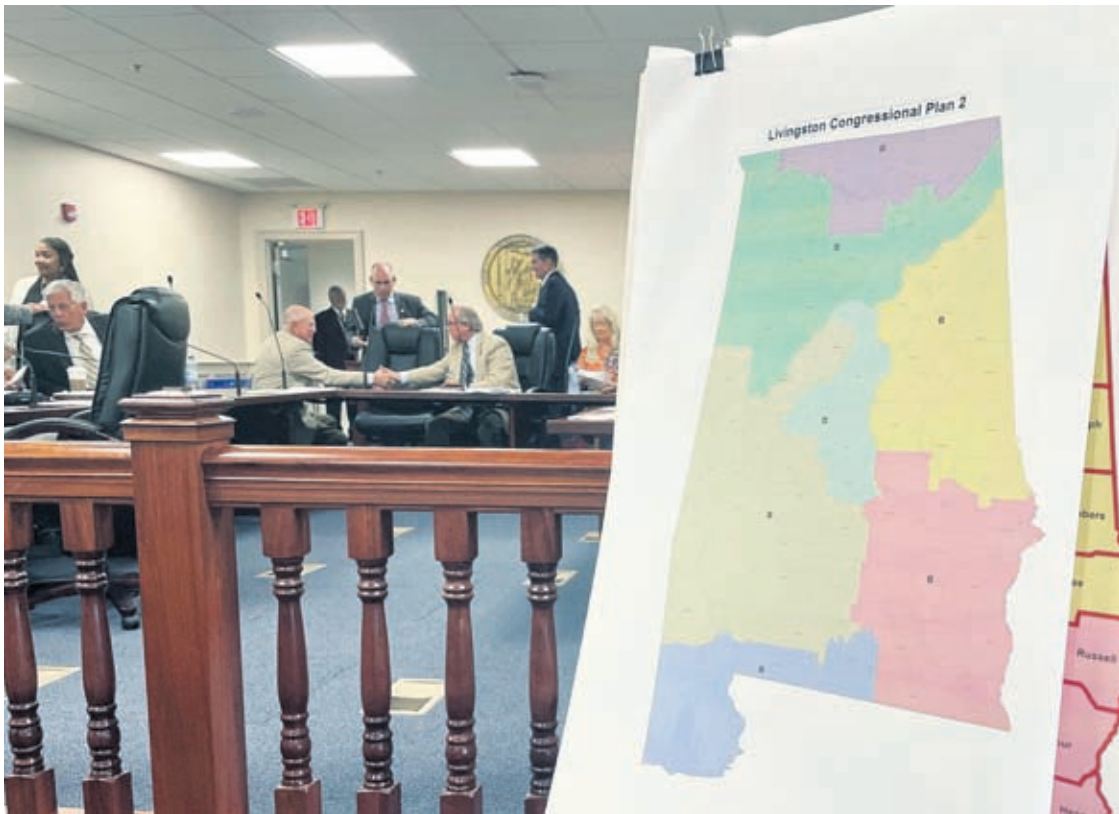
Legal challenges to congressional districts also are ongoing in Arkansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, New Mexico, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas and Utah. And new districts seem likely in New York and North Carolina, based on previous court actions.

Though much remains to be settled, there's a good chance congressional districts will be changing in numerous states.

It's likely that "a significant number of voters will be voting for a different person than they voted for in 2022," said Doug Spencer, an election law professor at the University of Colorado who manages the All About Redistricting website.

Republicans currently hold a 222-212 majority in the U.S. House, with one vacancy in a previously Democratic-held seat.

Boundaries for the nation's House districts were redrawn in all states before the 2022 election to account for population changes noted in the 2020 census. In some states, majority party lawmakers in charge of redistricting manipulated lines to give an edge to their party's can-



A map of a GOP proposal to redraw Alabama's congressional districts is displayed at the Alabama Statehouse in Montgomery, Ala., Tuesday, July 18, 2023.

Associated Press

didates a tactic known as gerrymandering. That triggered lawsuits, which can take years to resolve.

The court battle in Alabama, for example, already has lasted about two years since the legislature approved U.S. House districts that resulted in six Republicans and just one Democrat, who is Black, winning election in 2022. In June, the U.S. Supreme Court upheld a lower court's finding that the map likely violated the federal Voting Rights Act by failing to provide Black residents who comprise 27% of the state's population an opportunity to elect their preferred candidates in two districts.

Alabama lawmakers responded in July by passing a revised map that maintained only one majority-Black district but boosted the percentage of Black voters in a second district from about 30% to almost 40%. A federal judicial panel on Tuesday decided that wasn't good enough. But Republican Attorney General Steve Marshall's office said it will again ask the U.S. Supreme Court to review that decision.

Ongoing lawsuits in Georgia and Louisiana are us-

ing similar arguments to push for additional districts where Black voters could have more power. Democrats stand to gain because a majority of Black residents tend to vote for Democrats instead of Republicans.

A Florida redistricting case decided Saturday by a state judge also involved race, though it relied on provisions in the state constitution instead of the Voting Rights Act. That judge said the U.S. House map enacted by GOP Gov. Ron DeSantis diminished Black voters' ability to elect their candidate of choice in northern Florida. The judge directed Florida lawmakers to draw a new congressional map a ruling that is likely to be appealed before it's carried out.

The litigation in southern states is "more of a racial representation issue than it is a political representation issue," said Michael McDonald, a political science professor at the University of Florida who specializes in elections and redistricting. "But we can't escape the political consequences, because we have a very closely balanced House of Representatives at the moment."

Though Democrats stand to gain from court challenges in Alabama, Florida, Georgia and Louisiana, Republicans appear poised to pick up seats in North Carolina, which also has experienced a series of legal twists.

North Carolina currently is represented in Congress by seven Democrats and seven Republicans after the state Supreme Court under a Democratic majority struck down the Republican legislature's map as an illegal partisan gerrymander and instead allowed a court-drawn map to be used in the 2022 election. While that case was on appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court, voters elected a Republican majority to the North Carolina Supreme Court.

Those judges in April reversed the previous ruling and declared there was no constitutional prohibition on partisan gerrymandering. The state's GOP-led legislature is expected to pass new districts that favor their candidates before the 2024 election.

A similar reversal could benefit Democrats in New York, where a state appeals court in July ordered an independent redistricting

commission to start work on a new set of U.S. House districts that could be used in the 2024 election.

The New York commission had failed to reach a consensus before the 2022 election, leading to maps drawn by the Democratic-led legislature that were struck down as an unconstitutional gerrymander and replaced with court-approved maps. Republicans fared better under those maps, picking up several suburban New York City seats that could be put back into play if the districts are redrawn again.

Political observers also had been keeping an eye on Ohio, where the state Supreme Court previously ruled that Republican-drawn maps were unconstitutional. Despite that, those districts were allowed to be used in the 2022 election, and Republicans won 10 of the state's 15 U.S. House seats.

The U.S. Supreme Court in June ordered the state court to take another look at the case. But voting rights groups on Tuesday told the state court that they are willing to accept the current districts in order to avoid "the continued turmoil brought about by cycles of redrawn maps and ensuing litigation."

Though lawsuits have become common after each decennial redistricting, they can lead to confusion among voters if congressional districts get changed after only a few years.

"It does undermine a little bit the theory of representative democracy if you don't even know who represents you election to election," Spencer said. "It's another reason why these redistricting games are so problematic." □



California judge halts district policy requiring parents be told if kids change pronouns

By AMY TAXIN

Associated Press

SANTA ANA, Calif. (AP) — A judge on Wednesday halted a Southern California school district from requiring parents to be notified if their children change their gender identification or pronouns at school.

San Bernardino County Superior Court Judge Thomas S. Garza ruled after California Attorney General Rob Bonta sued the Chino Valley Unified School District for adopting a policy requiring schools to tell parents when their children change their pronouns or use a bathroom of a gender other than the one listed on their official paperwork.

"Today's decision by the San Bernardino Superior Court rightfully upholds the state rights of our LGBTQ+ students and protects kids from harm by immediately halting the board's forced outing policy," Attorney General Rob Bonta said in a statement.

Garza's order halts the district's policy while Bonta's lawsuit continues. During a court hearing Wednesday, Garza raised questions about why the policy came up in the first place



Parents, students, and staff of Chino Valley Unified School District hold up signs in favor of protecting LGBTQ+ policies at Don Antonio Lugo High School, on Thursday, June 15, 2023.

Associated Press

and how it protected students.

Full details of the order were not immediately available. The next court hearing on the issue was scheduled for Oct. 13.

Sonja Shaw, president of the Chino Valley Unified board of education, said she was disappointed by the ruling but hopes the case will bring attention to the issue. She said she and

other parents feel state officials are limiting their ability to be involved in their children's education on issues ranging from gender identification to curriculum.

"I don't understand why they are so gung ho on this issue, but everything else we have to inform the parents about," Shaw said. "There is obviously an issue and parents are concerned." Chino Valley Uni-

fied, which serves 27,000 students about 35 miles (55 kilometers) east of Los Angeles, is one of several that requires parents to be informed if their children are transgender. The district passed the policy this summer, saying it supported the rights of parents to be involved in their children's care and education.

Two nearby districts have done the same, while at

least two others in the state are bringing up similar measures this week.

Bonta argues the policy will forcibly out transgender students in violation of their privacy rights and threaten their well-being. Chino Valley contends the policy seeks to involve parents so they can provide support their children need.

During Wednesday's hearing, Delbert Tran, a deputy attorney general for California, said students were already being affected by the policy and feared being themselves at school, and that risking the safety of one transgender student would be too many. "This policy needs to be addressed now," Tran told the court. Anthony De Marco, an attorney for Chino Valley Unified, argued the policy would not affect students who were holding private conversations with teachers, but would involve parents in situations where students were making more public decisions such as changing their name or pronouns or using bathrooms or joining sports teams of a gender other than the one on their official paperwork. □

An Idaho woman convicted of killing two of her children and another woman is appealing the case

BOISE, Idaho (AP) — A woman sentenced to life in prison in the murders of her two youngest children and a woman she saw as a romantic rival says she will appeal her conviction to the Idaho Supreme Court. Attorneys for Lori Vallow Daybell filed a notice of appeal last week. She will ask the Idaho Supreme Court to consider several issues, including whether the judge in her case wrongly found her competent to stand trial. The judge had ordered Vallow Daybell to undergo mental health treatment. She spent roughly 10 months in a mental hospital before he

declared her competent. She'll also argue that her right to a speedy trial was violated and that there were problems with jury selection, evidence and other procedural issues, the documents show.

The criminal case against Vallow Daybell, 50, was complex and included claims that she called her son and daughter zombies and believed she was a goddess tasked with ushering in an apocalypse.

A jury found Vallow Daybell guilty in May of killing her two youngest children, 7-year-old Joshua "JJ" Vallow and 16-year-old Tylee Ryan, as well as conspiring

to kill Tammy Daybell, her fifth husband's previous wife.

A judge gave her three life sentences.

Her husband, Chad Daybell, is awaiting trial on the same murder charges.

Vallow Daybell is also charged with crimes in Arizona. She's charged with conspiring with her brother to kill her fourth husband, who was shot and killed in 2019, and of conspiring to kill her niece's ex-husband. Her niece's ex survived a murder attempt later that year. Vallow Daybell has not yet entered a plea on the Arizona charges. □



Lori Vallow Daybell sits during her sentencing hearing at the Fremont County Courthouse in St. Anthony, Idaho, Monday, July 31, 2023.

Associated Press

A former Mossad chief says Israel is enforcing an apartheid system in the West Bank

By TIA GOLDENBERG

Associated Press

HERZLIYA, Israel (AP) — A former head of Israel's Mossad intelligence agency told The Associated Press on Wednesday that Israel is enforcing an apartheid system in the West Bank, joining a tiny but growing list of retired officials to endorse an idea that remains largely on the fringes of Israeli discourse and international diplomacy.

Tamir Pardo becomes the latest former senior official to have concluded that Israel's treatment of Palestinians in the West Bank amounts to apartheid, a reference to the system of racial separation in South Africa that ended in 1994. Leading rights groups in Israel and abroad and Palestinians have accused Israel and its 56-year occupation of the West Bank of morphing into an apartheid system that they say gives Palestinians second-class status and is designed to maintain Jewish hegemony from the Jordan River to the Mediterranean Sea.

A handful of former Israeli leaders, diplomats and security men have warned that Israel risks becoming an apartheid state, but Pardo's language was



Tamir Pardo, former head of Israel's Mossad intelligence agency pose for a photograph in Herzliya, Israel, Wednesday, Sept. 6, 2023.

even more blunt.

"There is an apartheid state here," Tamir Pardo said in an interview. "In a territory where two people are judged under two legal systems, that is an apartheid state." Given Pardo's background, the comments carry special weight in security-obsessed Israel.

Pardo, who was appointed by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and served as head of Israel's clandestine spy agency from 2011-2016,

wouldn't say if he held the same beliefs while heading the Mossad. But he said that he believed among the country's most pressing issues was the Palestinians above Iran's nuclear program, seen by Netanyahu as an existential threat.

Pardo said that as Mossad chief, he repeatedly warned Netanyahu that he needed to decide what Israel's borders were, or risk the destruction of a state for the Jews.

In the past year, Pardo has become an outspoken critic against Netanyahu and his government's push to reshape the judicial system, slamming his old boss for steps he said would lead Israel to become a dictatorship.

His candid evaluation Wednesday of Israel's military occupation is rare among leaders of the grassroots protest movement against the judicial overhaul, which has largely

avoided talk of the occupation out of concern that it might scare away more nationalist supporters.

Pardo's remarks, and the overhaul, come as Israel's far-right government, which is made up of ultranationalist parties who support annexing the West Bank, is working to entrench Israel's hold on the territory. Some ministers have pledged to double the number of settlers currently living in the West Bank, which stands at a half-million.

Netanyahu's Likud party issued a statement condemning Pardo's comments. "Instead of defending Israel and the Israeli military, Pardo slanders Israel," it said. "Pardo. You should be ashamed."

In apartheid South Africa, a system based on white supremacy and racial segregation was in place from 1948 until 1994. Human rights groups have based their conclusions on Israel on international conventions like the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court.

It defines apartheid as "an institutionalized regime of systematic oppression and domination by one racial group over any other racial group." □

Associated Press

Suspect in explosives attack on Japan's prime minister is indicted on attempted murder charge

By MARI YAMAGUCHI

Associated Press

TOKYO (AP) — Japanese prosecutors formally indicted a 24-year-old man Wednesday on attempted murder and other charges in the explosives attack on Prime Minister Fumio Kishida in April, court officials said.

Kishida was campaigning for elections in a small fishing port in Wakayama in western Japan when a man threw a homemade pipe bomb at him. Kishida was unhurt, but two people received minor injuries.

Suspect Ryuji Kimura, 24, was arrested on the spot and underwent a three-month psychiatric evaluation sought by local prosecutors to determine that he is mentally fit for trial. Police and prosecutors determined that the bomb used in the attack was potentially lethal, according to local media reports.

Prosecutors indicted Kimura on an attempted murder charge and four others, including violation of the gun and swords control law and the explosives control law, according to the Wakayama District Court, which accepted the indictment.

A trial date has not been decided, court officials said.

In the indictment, prosecutors allege that Kimura threw the pipe bomb at Kishida with an intent to kill and caused minor injuries to a police officer and a local resident in the audience, Kyodo News reported.

Kimura has refused to talk to the authorities. He may have been angry because he couldn't file for candidacy in 2022 elections, Japanese media reported. □



A man who was later identified as Ryuji Kimura is arrested after what appeared to be a pipe bomb was thrown at Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida during his visit at a port in Wakayama, western Japan, on April 15, 2023.

Associated Press

U.S. lawmakers say Russian President Putin is committing genocide in Ukraine

By **MIKE CORDER**
Associated Press

THE HAGUE, Netherlands (AP) — Members of the U.S. House Foreign Affairs Committee said Wednesday that Russian President Vladimir Putin is committing genocide in Ukraine. Their comments came a day before they were scheduled to meet with the chief prosecutor of the International Criminal Court. The ICC in March issued an international arrest warrant for Putin for war crimes, accusing him of personal responsibility for the abductions of children from Ukraine. However, it has not yet charged him with any other offenses committed by Russian forces since their invasion of Ukraine more than 18 months ago. The committee's chairman, Rep. Michael McCaul, a Texas Republican, told reporters during a visit to The Hague that Putin "tried to erase a culture, a people and a religion, and that is the definition of genocide." Another member of the committee, Ann Wagner, a Missouri Republican, agreed, speaking of the "crimes against humanity,



Russian President Vladimir Putin meets with Minister of Natural Resources and Environment Alexander Kozlov at the Kremlin in Moscow, Russia, Wednesday, Sept. 6, 2023.

Associated Press

the downright genocide that this man has perpetrated."

Gerry Connolly, a Virginia Democrat, said Putin even before the war had denied the existence of Ukraine as a country and a people. "So I think he himself made the case for genocide and his behavior subsequently has filled in blanks," Connolly said.

Their comments Wednesday came as Russian shelling of a market in east-

ern Ukraine killed at least 16 people and wounded many more. The attack was launched while U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken visited Kyiv and was expected to announce more than \$1 billion in new American funding. Members of the committee will meet Thursday with ICC Prosecutor Karim Khan and visit the European Union Agency for Criminal Justice Cooperation, or Eurojust, which hosts the International

Center for the Prosecution of the Crime of Aggression Against Ukraine. The center aims to support nations already building cases against senior Russian leaders for the crime of aggression. The International Criminal Court can prosecute crimes including genocide but does not have jurisdiction over the crime of aggression.

McCaul said the committee members will be looking at "the evidence itself

and how we can help The Hague gather more and collect more evidence and intelligence to prove the case against Putin." The United States is not a member state of the ICC, and during the administration of former President Donald Trump it slapped sanctions on a previous ICC prosecutor and several aides for pursuing investigations into alleged war crimes committed by U.S. troops in Afghanistan and Iraq and Israeli servicemembers in the West Bank and Gaza. But since the outbreak of war in Ukraine, the relationship has shifted.

Last month, Attorney General Merrick Garland said the U.S. Justice Department is cooperating with the court and supporting Ukrainian prosecutors carrying out war crime investigations.

While the arrest warrant against Putin carries significant moral weight, it is unlikely to lead to him appearing in a courtroom in The Hague any time soon because Moscow does not recognize the court's jurisdiction or extradite its nationals. □

Flooding in southern Brazil leaves at least 31 dead and 1,600 homeless

By **WESLEY SANTOS and DIANE JEANTET**

Associated Press

MUCUM, Brazil (AP) — Flooding from a cyclone in southern Brazil washed away houses, trapped motorists in vehicles and swamped streets in several cities, killing at least 31 people and leaving 1,600 homeless, authorities said Wednesday.

More than 60 cities have been battered by the storm since Monday night, and Rio Grande do Sul Gov. Eduardo Leite said the death toll was the state's highest from a climate event.

"The fly-over we just did, shows the dimension of an absolutely out of the ordinary event," Leite said in a

video posted on the state's social media accounts. "It wasn't just riverside communities that were hit, but

entire cities that were completely compromised."

Videos shot by rescue teams Tuesday and published by



Marcos Gomes, second from right, searches for belongings at the site of his destroyed home after floods caused by a cyclone in Mucum, Rio Grande do Sul state, Brazil, Wednesday, Sept. 6, 2023.

Associated Press

the online news site G1 had shown some families on the top of their houses pleading for help as rivers overflowed their banks. Some areas were entirely cut off after wide avenues turned into fast-moving rivers. Leite said Wednesday that the death toll was at 31, and state emergency authorities said at least 1,600 people were made homeless. In Mucum, a city of about 50,000 residents, rescuers found 15 bodies in a single house. Once the storm had passed, residents discovered a trail of destruction along the river with most buildings swept away down to the ground level. Images showed a sheep hanging from an electrical

line an indication of how high the water had risen. "The water arrived very fast, it was rising two meters (6½ feet) an hour," Mucum resident Marcos Antonio Gomes said, standing on top of a pile of debris. "We have nothing left. Not even clothes."

In an indication of how long people might be stranded, the Mucum city hall advised residents to seek out supplies to meet their needs for the next 72 hours. Gomes, a 55-year-old businessman, said it was the fourth time in 15 years that his house was damaged by floods. He said this one was the worst so far, and he expects more flooding in the future. □

Visit the island's popular cave sites!

(Oranjestad)—Among the endless sea of dark brown sand and cacti, there are two caves hidden in the outskirts of San Nicolas, in the north-eastern area of the island. These caves, The Quadiriki cave and The Fontein Cave are open to visitors of the Arikok National Park, so if you ever decide to take an “off-road” tour in the park, be sure to visit these prehistoric caves...and be sure to bring a flashlight!

Quadirikiri Cave

Known for its two chambers accompanied by a skylight, the Quadikiri Cave is the most popular cave among locals and tourists, as it is easy to walk through and provides great lighting for pictures.

As with all prehistoric or ancient sites, there is always a folk legend that adds to the lore and mystery of the site. The Quadirikiri cave is no different. The most well-known legend behind the cave could be considered as Aruba's first love story, as it tells the tale of the undying love between the chief's daughter and her beloved. As legend would have it, the chief disapproved of his daughter's choice of lover, as he thought him unworthy. Stubborn and filled with anger, the daughter refused to turn away her beloved.

So, the chief decided to lock her up in the Quadirikiri Cave, in hopes that she would soon calm down and turn away her lover. Her beloved, in turn, was



locked away in the Tunnel of Love (Now known as the Huliba Cave).

Through the pathways underneath the Tunnel of Love running up to the Quadiriki cave, the two love birds found each other, and refused to let each other go. Because of their stubbornness, they both died in the Quadiriki Cave, their ascending spirits burning two holes in the ceiling of the cave. This is why the cave has two holes through which sunlight passes through to illuminate the chamber.

Though there have been discoveries of Amerindian drawing on the wall, these have mostly been ruined by vandalism. However, the Fontein Cave further up north, provides a better glimpse in prehistoric Amerindian paintings.

Fontein Cave

Longer than the Quadirikiri Cave, the Fontein Cave contains pathways that stretch to the limestone walls further down. Here is also where prehistoric drawings can be seen. Though this cave does not have its own legend, this



was speculated to have been occupied—or at least used by prehistoric Arawak settlers on the island for rituals and other spiritual ceremonies.

The Huliba Cave/ Tunnel of Love

The Huliba Cave, formerly known as the Tunnel of Love, was once open to the public, and was the biggest and most accessible of all three caves. This cave had five chambers, including one that is heart-shaped. This cave had narrow stairs that led to long pathways deep into the cave, with a staircase leading to the exit on the other side. In one of the chambers, there used to be the carving of the Virgin Mary, put there for the protection of the cave.

However, the Huliba Cave has been permanently closed for a few years now, as a way to preserve the bat population that lives in the cave. These Long Tongue Fruit Bats and Insect Eater Bats are very important to the ecosystem of the island. Though this cave is no longer accessible to the public, it surely is interesting to learn more about the history of these caves and the Awarak tribes that resided or utilized them.

Do note that these caves are very dark, humid, hot, and are inhabited by bats. Do wear comfortable clothing and shoes, as the pathways in these caves may be rough and bumpy, and don't forget to bring a flashlight! □





Rhythms Circus Company Aruba: putting Aruba's name on the world stage



Rhythms Circus Company Aruba is a talented group of young people working daily to present their art in the form of acrobatics, dancing, acting and singing. After an impactful participation in one of America's biggest talent shows, they are now bringing their amazing talent to Aruba!

In a show full of light, music, and with performances to famous musical figures like Elvis Presley, Michael Jackson and Tina Turner, the group consisting of 15 people from various countries delights the audience with their artistic prowess at the Paseo Herencia Mall, every Wednesday and Friday starting at 7pm. Each day has a different show, so you can attend both nights for the complete experience!

The group, under the leadership of directors and creators Diego Jaramillo and Yamila Hernandez are opening the doors to the ballroom to our local audience as well as our visi-

tors so that everyone can have the privilege of experiencing this wonderful show.

Hernandez explained that the idea for this project started in 2010 when she came to work in Aruba. After being on the island for a while she decided to stay and live here, and she met Diego Jaramillo, who is currently her partner. Together they came with the idea to establish a company together with other professional artists, with the goal of living from their art.

Hernandez says that the work is hard – all of the performers are professional artists, and while the production of the show is not a challenge for them, selling the idea proved difficult since at the time, there weren't any shows of its kind on the island.


America's Got Talent

Currently they are offering a show with music, choreography and at the end, they have a shocking acrobatics ending, one that was seen by thousands of people around the world when the group travelled to Los Angeles in the United States to represent Aruba in America's Got Talent. Hernandez said that the show was very important for them to meet the public present because people could experience this performance live and right before their eyes.

Their presentation in America's Got Talent "was incredible" and they were able to meet the jury and many other artists staying there for three months. But the exhaustion and physical toll was so great that Diego suffered an accident, and because of this, they had to cancel all future commitments.



Reservations and tickets


To make a reservation to see this incredible display of creativity and acrobatics, scan the QR code which will take you directly to their website for a booking. To find more information about RCCA, please visit their Instagram page @rccaruba. 

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History of fishing in Aruba

ORANJESTAD — Fishing has been a family tradition for ages in Aruba. Our ancestors used to fish for a living. Even though nowadays you don't see them often we still have some passionate fishermen on the island that go out every day in search for fish to feed their families and serve our local market. One of these fishermen is Gregory Wernet.

The so-called Continental Bank between Aruba and the opposite coast reaches a depth of about 650 feet. The sea is very rich in fish here. Since the time of the indigenous native people fish and other sea creatures such as turtles, octopus squids, conch and many type of crustaceans have formed a means of subsistence for the native Aruban inhabitants. Especially along the west coast of the island where the fishing grounds are settlements of fishermen. Until the ar-

rival of the oil -industry Aruban fishermen could supply Aruba's wants.

As a source of income, however, fishing did not amount too much. In the beginning of the 1900's approximately 160 people earn their living in this branch of this industry. Rancho, which stands for a shed, nowadays east Oranjestad, was the head quarter and remains the fishermen's settlement. Savaneta, Noord, Santa Cruz all had their fishermen's villages. At a rough estimate there were about a hundred small fishing boats during that time.

The Arubans were mainly engaged in coastal fishing, using rowing-boats or small sailing-boats, and lines or dragnets and canisters in shallow water. When fishing with deep-sea lines just over the bottom of the sea the boat is kept in place by means of a piece of rock serving as an anchor. The two most important species



of fish by far caught in this manner are the pargo or red snappers and a variety of groupers like the mero, jeanpao and the wowo di boyo.

Cruising off the coast the Aruban fisherman patiently waits for a fish willing to snap at the bait on the drag-line, in nets and traps. Veritable giants are sometimes caught. Barracudas weigh from 9 to 44 pounds and measure from 3 to almost 7 feet. The king-fish has a weight from 22 to 44 pounds; the moclat may tip the scales at 155, whilst garfish, having a length of nine feet, weigh over 132 pounds.

Most fish caught is used for their own consumption, to feed their families and some are being sold in the market to local restaurants.

Fisherman Gregory Wernet

Gregory Wernet is a well-known fisherman from Santa Cruz. His father taught

him fishing when he was a small child. Gregory has two sons, Jordan and Jordanny, which he taught fishing too, when they were only 3 years old and he takes them fishing with him. Fishing has been a family tradition for quite a long time and even his grandson Willvion of 7 years old is following his grandfather steps. This is the sixth generation of fishermen in their family.

They go deep sea fishing. There they catch red snapper, grouper and amberjack. They usually fish for 15 hours a day, but now due to the covid-19 measurements they go fishing from 5 in the morning until 8 o'clock at night or even sometimes from 8 at night till 5 in the morning. The day before they prepare all their fishing tools such as the Lines, lures, spears, and load their boat with fishing reels, batteries, fill the gasoline tank, lights and some

food and beverages. For bait he uses sardines, squid and the small fish known in Aruba as piskechi. The have two boats they use for fishing. 'Virgen del Valle' which is parked at the pier by the Seaport and 'Padrot' which they have at home.

The fish they catch they take home to their families and they also sell it to their clients. Gregory is proud to be a fisherman. It is a honest and humble job but with it he is able to feed his family even during hard times. It is a very dangerous job and you have to spend many hours on the sea, waiting patiently and risking your life while fighting a big fish and big waves but the adrenaline it brings with it but also just sitting there listening to the sound of the waves and enjoying the marvelous view that nature has to offer is all worth it.

Source: Etnia Nativa



Episode 47: Dragonfly (*Orthemis ferruginea*)

ORANJESTAD — Spirit or ghost of a goat, “Spirit”i Cabrito” in Papiamentu is the way Aruba has named their Libel or Dragonfly. They belong to the order Odonata, a carnivorous insect’s family encompassing the dragonflies and the damselflies. The Odonata form a clade, which has existed since the Permian era. Dragonflies are generally larger, and perch with their wings held out to the sides; damselflies have slender bodies, and hold their wings over the body at rest.

Everything related to dragonflies has always been surrounded by legends and myths. The reality is that they are harmless insects that have lived on earth for 200 million years, before dinosaurs and survived long after their extinction. Dragonflies consume up to 300 mosquitoes and other flying insects a day, they are sometimes known as mosquito hawks. They are skilled experts, no other animal has the ability to maneuver the dragonfly’s wings, and its wings are bright and beautiful. While the Maya related them to the sun, other cultures consider them symbols of fertility since females can lay up to 100,000 eggs at once. Males defend territories where the appropriate conditions are found for laying the eggs and where they are developed correctly. Normally, these territories usually coincide with areas that have submerged aquatic vegetation or areas that maintain water levels or currents that allow the oxygenation of the eggs. Territoriality is a behavior that will favor the selection of the most competitive males, which will transmit their genes to the largest possible number of females.

The Odonatas have a mechanism to reduce predation on them like camouflage, since they have colors, design patterns and postures that make predators go unnoticed. When they are attacked, on their

hangers during cold mornings when they barely have mobility, they can perform intimidating movements with the legs and abdomen that can deter the predator.

In Mexico as well as in Aruba they are considered as a symbol of water purity, and their presence predicts a good year of harvest. In Tahiti, dragonflies are related to gods and spirits that bring fortune.

In various populations of China, dragonflies symbolize weakness and fragility, but they are also consid-



ered beneficial and favorable in rice fields. In addition, they were used to make mixtures with aphrodisiac powers. In Japan they are considered a symbol of victory, happiness, strength and courage. Legend has it that Emperor Yuryako Tenno was hunting on a plain, and a horsefly landed on his arm and stung him. At that moment a dragonfly appeared that got rid of the horsefly. In honor of her, the emperor called the area Akitsu-no (plain of the dragonfly) so the ancient name of Japan emerged: Akitsu Shima (The Dragonfly Islands). The samurai, ancient Japanese warriors, use dragonflies as an emblem of good luck, decorating their shields and sabers with them.

In Hindu mythology there is a legend that says that when people die their souls become dragonflies.

In German mythology the dragonflies were associated with Freyja, goddess of love, wealth and eroticism to which they paid tribute on Fridays. But a decree of the Catholic Church of 775 A.D. said: “I relate this goddess to evil and along with it I condemn the dragonflies.” From this story in Cantabrian mythology the dragonflies are called “Caballitos del Diablo” who arise on the magical night of San Juan and fly at night in search of the four-leaf clovers they eat to prevent mortals from finding them.

The superstitions of this Cantabrian region say that these horses from hell are men who, because of their sins, lost their soul and were forced to travel Cantabria for the rest of eternity.

In our western world a quite popular legend relates that the dragonflies were Fairies that were forbidden to live with humans and they were not to have any contact with them. Some of these Fairies ignored this prohibition and the gods punished them by converting them in dragonflies. Time passed and the prohibition of living with humans was abolished but when the pardon reached the fairies that had been turned into dragonflies they refused to return to their previous state because they had already become accustomed to living with humans without hiding flying free on all sides. Here in Aruba dragonflies were considered as healing and transformation animals, shamans called upon in their rituals and as sign of good omen.

To get to know more about Aruba and its origins, its animals and culture, we highly recommend you to book your visit to our renowned cultural center where encounter sessions have been entertaining curious participants for decades. Mail us at etnianaativa03@gmail.com to confirm your participation. Our facilities and activities take place close to high rise hotels. □

National Park Arikok: Aruba's biggest nature conservation

The National Park Arikok comprises almost 18 % of the island. Its rugged terrain, desert-like hills filled with tall cacti, breathtaking coastline and protected local flora and fauna welcome you to be explored. There are numerous animals to discover, for example the sea turtle who lays his eggs on the park's beaches.

The national park Arikok takes you on a memorable journey of the islands past offering unique geological, cultural and historical sites. These can all be enjoyed and explored either on your own or during guided tours. A wide variety of educational and informative programs and fun activities is available.

Did you know that four of the in total seven species of sea turtle lay their eggs on Aruba's beaches? In the national park, a Least Tern (*Sterna antillarum*) keeps a strict eye on a very special event taking place below on the beach: a majestic Leatherback (*Dermochelys coriacea*) heads back to sea after laying her eggs, while another nest laid 2 months ago by the same female hatches—a very rare occurrence of daytime nesting and hatching. Sea turtles prefer nesting in the cool and dark hours of the night. And hatchlings usually wait for the cue of cooling surface sand before emerging.

Nature Conservation

The protected area of National Park Arikok was officially established in 2000. Arikok National Park is a 34 square kilometers (7907 acres) of natural area, located at the north-eastern part of Aruba which contains examples of most of the island's flora and fauna against a backdrop of great geological complexity. We are proud to state that approximately 18% of the total land area of Aruba is assigned as a National Park, to protect and preserve the flora, fauna, geology and historical remains present within Arikok



National Park.

The Landscape

There is a great geological variety within the park. The main aspects are the rough hills of the volcanic Aruba lava formation, the mysterious rocks of the batholithic quartz-diorite/tonalite, and the limestone rocks from fossilized coral. The two tallest hills on the island are situated within the park. Jamanota hill 188 meters (617 ft) and Arikok hill 176 meters (577 ft), from which the name of the park is derived.

The line of the permanently wind-and-wave beaten North Coast is broken by several bays (boca's). Most of them are small yet impressive inlets at the mouth of dry riverbeds. Some of these bays (boca's) are spectacular sights, adorned with white, sandy beaches and sand dunes, as is the case at Boca Prins and Dos Playa.

Arikok is also home to Conchi, Aruba's most impor-

tant natural attraction; also known as The Natural Pool. The journey to the Pool is and adventure by itself and only possible by foot, horse, ATV or 4x4 vehicle.

Cultural and Historical components

There are a number of sites within the park that attest to the history of Aruba. The Caquetío Indians left rock

paintings in Cunucu Arikok and Fontein Cave. The bird drawing in the park logo is a copy of one of these historical artistic expressions.

Old plantation (Cunucus) sites tell the story of an active yet challenging agricultural past.

These Cunucus were also residential areas for the few families that worked the land. These families found ways to survive in the difficult conditions, and were able to erect their homes with materials found in the area. Two of these adobe houses have been restored. Park rangers are learning many of the old building techniques in order to preserve this unique

Aruban mud-house. At Cunucu Arikok and near Plantation Prins you can find these adobe houses.

Park Management

For the management of the park, a dedicated foundation "Fundacion Parke Nacional Arikok" (FPNA), known today as the Aruba National Park Foundation was established in July 2003. In February 2017, mangrove and wetland RAMSAR site #198 Spanish Lagoon was annexed to Arikok National Park due to its importance as a feeding and breeding area for water birds and as a nursery area for a variety of marine organisms. With this addition, the areas under FPNA management increased by 70 hectares while the amount of species of flora and fauna to be conserved to over 250. On December 21st, 2018 (AB 2018 no. 77) Parke Marino Aruba – currently consisting of four marine protected areas (MPAs) – was officially established and subsequently brought under management of FPNA. In 2019 management plans will be established for the new MPAs which include: coral reefs, sea grass beds, mangrove systems, a large diversity of breeding seabirds. Parke Marino Aruba also contains potential shark nursery areas, endangered sea turtle nesting beaches and marine mammal nursery areas. □



CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

- 1 Plant pest
- 6 Worn out
- 11 Color
- 12 Barcelona buddy
- 13 Seoul setting
- 14 Burn a bit
- 15 Middle-aged physique
- 17 Take in
- 19 Nearest star
- 20 Long time
- 23 Pens
- 25 Salsa legend
- 26 Key count
- 28 Needing aspirin
- 29 One of Santa's team
- 30 Scoundrel
- 31 Slump
- 32 Uno plus due
- 33 Space station of the 1970s
- 35 Opera's Callas
- 38 Make happy
- 41 Deal maker
- 42 Apartment sign
- 43 Avoid
- 44 Hawks

DOWN

- 1 Inquire
- 2 Soup of Vietnam
- 3 Two fours, in dice
- 4 Inking
- 5 Determined
- 6 Argo captain
- 7 In the center of
- 8 Clamor
- 9 Meringue base
- 10 Buck's mate
- 16 When there are many errands to run

A	T	E	A	M			C	H	E	T
L	E	M	M	A			A	L	I	V
C	A	P	E	R			P	O	R	E
A	C	E	S		A	R	D	E	N	T
P	A	R		C	H	I		S	T	Y
P	R	O	T	R	A	C	T			
	T	R	I	O		D	A	F	S	
			C	O	N	T	R	A	C	T
T	A	U		N	A	S		C	O	W
O	S	P	R	E	Y			H	A	R
S	H	E	A	R			L	A	D	E
C	E	N	T	S			A	L	E	R
A	N	D	S				B	O	S	Y

Yesterday's answer

- 17 Take an oath
- 18 Writer Jong
- 20 Pool game
- 21 Different
- 22 — Dame
- 24 Quaker's pronoun
- 25 Frank McCourt book
- 27 Baby baldies
- 31 Flat fish
- 33 Join the choir
- 34 Lotion additive
- 35 Seething
- 36 In the past
- 37 Primary color
- 39 — Aviv
- 40 UFO pilots

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11					12				
13					14				
		15			16				
17	18			19			20	21	22
23			24			25			
26					27				
28				29					
30			31				32		
		33				34			
35	36	37			38			39	40
41					42				
43					44				

9-7

AXYDIBAXR
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three I's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

9-7

CRYPTOQUOTE

C X Q X N V H N Z K M N L X F

I M Q Q X N C X D Q N H E O H E H

Z D N K Z K M N L X F I M Q C X

— T X K Q Z X X C H Q

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: MOTHER NATURE IS NOT A RESOURCE: SHE IS AN HEIRLOOM. — DAVID IPINA

Carmakers are failing the privacy test. Owners have little or no control over data collected



Heavy traffic heads south on Interstate 93 over the Zakim Bridge, Friday, Sep. 1, 2023, in Boston.

Associated Press

By FRANK BAJAK
AP Technology Writer

BOSTON (AP) — Most major car manufacturers admit they may be selling your personal information though they are vague on the buyers, a new study finds, and half say they would share it with the government or law enforcement without a court order. The proliferation of sensors in automobiles from telematics to fully digitized control consoles has made them prodigious data-collection hubs. But drivers are given little or no control over the personal data their vehicles collect, researchers for the nonprofit Mozilla Foundation said Wednesday in their latest "Privacy Not Included" survey. Security standards are also vague, a big concern given automakers' track record of susceptibility to hacking.

"Cars seem to have really flown under the privacy radar and I'm really hoping that we can help remedy that because they are truly awful," said Jen Caltrider, the study's research lead.

"Cars have microphones and people have all kinds of sensitive conversations in them. Cars have cameras that face inward and outward."

Unless they opt for a used, pre-digital model, car buyers "just don't have a lot of options," Caltrider said. Cars scored worst for privacy among more than a dozen product categories including fitness trackers, reproductive-health apps, smart speakers and other connected home appliances that Mozilla has studied since 2017.

Not one of the 25 car brands whose privacy notices were reviewed chosen for their popularity in Europe and North America met the minimum privacy standards of Mozilla, which promotes open-source, public interest technologies and maintains the Firefox browser. By contrast, 37% of the mental health apps the non-profit reviewed this year did.

Nineteen automakers say they can sell your personal data, their notices reveal. Half will share your infor-

mation with government or law enforcement in response to a "request" as opposed to requiring a court order. Only two Renault and Dacia, which are not sold in North America offer drivers the option to have their data deleted. The automakers are vague on disclosing to whom they are selling what they collect, though the researchers have little doubt it includes data brokers, marketers and dealers. Partners with installed products and services, including SiriusXM, Google Maps and Onstar, are also amassing data.

"Increasingly, most cars are wiretaps on wheels," said Albert Fox Cahn, a technology and human rights fellow at Harvard's Carr Center for Human Rights Policy. "The electronics that drivers pay more and more money to install are collecting more and more data on them and their passengers."

"There is something uniquely invasive about transforming the privacy of one's car into a corporate surveillance space," he added.

A trade group representing the makers of most cars and light trucks sold in the U.S., the Alliance for Automotive Innovation, took issue with that characterization. In a letter sent Tuesday to U.S. House and Senate leadership, it said it shares "the goal of protecting the privacy of consumers."

It called for a federal privacy law, saying a "patchwork of state privacy laws creates confusion among consumers about their privacy rights and makes compliance unnecessarily difficult."

The absence of such a law lets connected devices and smartphones amass data for tailored ad targeting and other marketing — while also raising the odds of massive information theft through cybersecurity breaches. □

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Across the Northern Hemisphere, now's the time to catch a new comet before it vanishes for 400 years

By MARCIA DUNN

AP Aerospace Writer

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla.

(AP) — A newly discovered comet is swinging through our cosmic neighborhood for the first time in more than 400 years.

Stargazers across the Northern Hemisphere should catch a glimpse as soon as possible either this week or early next because it will be another 400 years before the wandering ice ball returns.

The comet, which is kilometer-sized (1/2-mile), will sweep safely past Earth on Sept. 12, passing within 78 million miles (125 million kilometers).

Early risers should look toward the northeastern horizon about 1 1/2 hours before dawn to be specific, less than 10 or so degrees above the horizon near the constellation Leo. The comet will brighten as it gets closer to the sun, but will drop lower in the sky, making it tricky to spot.

Although visible to the naked eye, the comet is extremely faint.

"So you really need a good pair of binoculars to pick it out and you also need to know where to look," said said Paul Chodas, manager of NASA's Center for Near-Earth Object Studies. The comet will come closest to the sun closer than Mercury is on about Sept. 17 before departing the solar system. That's assuming it doesn't disintegrate when it buzzes the sun, though Chodas said "it's likely to survive its passage."

Italian astronomer Gianluca Masi, founder of the Virtual Telescope Project, said in an email that the next week represents "the last, feasible chances" to see the comet from the Northern Hemisphere before it's lost in the sun's glare.

"The comet looks amazing right now, with a long, highly structured tail, a joy to image with a telescope," he said.

If it survives its brush with



This image provided by Gianluca Masi shows the comet C/2023 P1 Nishimura and its tail seen from Manciano, Italy on Sept. 5, 2023.

Associated Press

the sun, the comet should be visible in the Southern Hemisphere by the end of September, Masi said, sitting low on the horizon in the evening twilight.

Stargazers have been tracking the rare green comet ever since its discovery by an amateur Japanese astronomer in mid-August. The Nishimura comet now bears his name.

It's unusual for an amateur

to discover a comet these days, given all the professional sky surveys by powerful ground telescopes, Chodas said, adding, "this is his third find, so good for him."

The comet last visited about 430 years ago, Chodas said.

That's about a decade or two before Galileo invented the telescope. □



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The Rolling Stones announce release date for their new album and unveil lead single, 'Angry'

By JILL LAWLESS
Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — The Rolling Stones are back, and they've brought a few famous friends. "Hackney Diamonds," the band's first album of new songs in 18 years, features guest appearances from the likes of Lady Gaga, Paul McCartney and Stevie Wonder. Poignantly, it also features Charlie Watts, the stalwart Stones drummer who died in 2021 after almost six decades in the band. His drumming, recorded in 2019, features on two of the album's dozen tracks, with Steve Jordan playing on the rest. Watts' absence lent a wistful note to the excitement of surviving Stones Mick Jagger, Keith Richards and Ronnie Wood when they came to east London's Hackney district on Wednesday to unveil the new album and announce its release date: Oct. 20. Of Watts, Richards said: "Of course he's missed incredibly. But thanks to Charlie we have Steve Jordan, who was his recommendation if anything should happen to him."



Ronnie Wood, from left, Mick Jagger, and Keith Richards pose for photographers at the press conference for the launch of the new Rolling Stones album 'Hackney Diamonds' on Wednesday, Sept. 6, 2023 in London.

Associated Press

"It would have been a lot harder without Charlie's blessing," he said. The album reveal was executed with the swaggering showmanship the Stones are famous for. It followed a cryptic teaser campaign, in which a glittery, jagged version of the band's iconic mouth and tongue logo was projected onto the façade of landmarks in cities

around the world, including New York, London and Paris. Hard-core fans lined up in a heatwave outside the Hackney Empire, where the band members were interviewed onstage by "The Tonight Show" host Jimmy Fallon in front of dozens of sweltering journalists and a global online audience. Inside the ornate former Ed-

wardian musical hall where Charlie Chaplin and Stan Laurel once performed, Jagger, 80, Richards, 79 and Wood, 76 gave details of the Stones' first studio album of new songs since "A Bigger Bang" in 2005. The band released a set of blues covers, "Blue & Lonesome," in 2016. The lead single is called "Angry," but Jagger said

not all the songs are furious. The album also contains "love songs, ballads, country-type" sounds, he said. Recorded in December and January at studios around the world, the album sees the Stones team up with Grammy-winning producer Andrew Watt, who helped assemble the starry guest list, which also includes former Stone Bill Wyman. Jagger said Lady Gaga who sings on "Sweet Sound of Heaven" was recording in a next-door studio while the Stones were in Los Angeles and ended up on the album after she popped in to say hello. "She walked in next to me and we started singing together," Jagger told the Associated Press backstage. "She sang it live and then we went in and tidied it up a bit." The band screened the video for "Angry," which has a classic mid-tempo crunchy Stones sound. The clip features "Euphoria" star Sydney Sweeney, shown cruising LA's Sunset Boulevard in a red convertible, past billboards of the Stones from various eras. □

Honorary Oscars event celebrating Angela Bassett, Mel Brooks pushed back amid Hollywood strikes

By LINDSEY BAHR
AP Film Writer

Angela Bassett is going to have to wait a little bit longer to get her Oscar. The 14th Governors Awards has been delayed from November until January, the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences said

Wednesday. The Academy, which puts on the Oscars, decided to delay the event due to the state of the industry, in which Hollywood's writers and actors are months into strikes for new contracts with major entertainment companies.

Bassett, who was up for the best supporting actress award earlier this year, was selected to receive the prestigious honorary Oscar statuette along with Mel Brooks and film editor Carol Littleton. The Sundance Institute's Michelle Satter will also receive the Jean Hersholt Humanitarian Award at the event, which was originally scheduled to be held on Nov. 18, but will now be held on Jan. 9 at the Fairmont Century Plaza in Los Angeles. The honorary awards used to be handed out on the Oscars telecast but became its own separate event in 2009. At the untelevised dinner,

industry friends and colleagues get to give longer, more personal speeches about the honorees before they accept their golden statuette. The event, held in the throes of Oscars season, also has often served as a de facto campaign stop for awards hopefuls, making it a reliably A-list affair. The Governors Awards is a union production and the Academy has been working with the Writers Guild of America and the Screen Actors Guild-American Federation of Television and Radio Artists as both guilds are deep into the strike with no end in sight. The strike has not only

stopped most productions but also led some studios to delay fall their fall movies as opposed to releasing them without the help of actors. The Governors Awards isn't the only event to have been delayed because of the strikes. The Emmy Awards, previously scheduled for September, was postponed to Jan. 15, 2024. And no one is entirely sure how the strikes will impact Oscars season, especially if a resolution is not reached before the new year. The 96th Academy Awards are currently scheduled to be held on March 10 and nominations will be announced on Jan. 23. □



This combination of photos shows Angela Bassett, Mel Brooks, Carol Littleton and Michelle Satter, who are this year's recipients of the 14th Governors Awards.

Associated Press

At U.S. Open: How to respond when the fans disrupt the tennis

By **BRIAN MAHONEY**

AP Sports Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Alexander Zverev felt he had to react when he heard a fan use language from Adolf Hitler's Nazi regime during his U.S. Open match.

This wasn't the type of heckling that players are prepared to face and trained to ignore. This man was sitting in a crowded section close to the court, where many more people besides the 2020 runner-up could hear the offensive words. So Zverev complained to the chair umpire and the man was ejected.

"At the end of the day I said what I said, the umpire immediately said, 'OK, we're going to get him out,' and that's it," Zverev said.

It highlighted a challenge faced by players and the U.S. Open itself as the event draws the biggest crowds in its history: making sure fans are engaged but not disrupting the tennis and how to respond when they do.

Another fan was thrown out Tuesday when he screamed at a key moment during Novak Djokovic's quarterfinal victory over Taylor Fritz, distracting the 23-time Grand Slam champion enough to cost him that point and then having screams directed back at him when Djokovic lost the next point, too. "Look,



Novak Djokovic, of Serbia, reacts during a match against Taylor Fritz, of the United States, during the quarterfinals of the U.S. Open tennis championships, Tuesday, Sept. 5, 2023, in New York.

Associated Press

it happens," Djokovic said. "Sometimes you react, but most of the time you don't. I speak for myself. Obviously there is, whatever percent of the time, you don't react. People speak, they move around. You've got to be ready for that, particularly in the U.S. Open, especially in the night sessions."

More than 500,000 fans attended the first week of the tournament, over 200,000 alone during the three-day Labor Day weekend. They were made aware of the code of conduct, which threatens expulsion

or even arrest for, among other things, using abusive or threatening language, or behavior that creates a disruptive atmosphere or detrimental experience for players.

That made the ejection of the Zverev fan who was not arrested an easy decision. Same with throwing out two men last year when one was giving the other a haircut in the Arthur Ashe Stadium seats.

Less clear is a situation like the Djokovic fan, whose behavior is normal at a basketball or football game, where spectators don't

hold their applause until play has stopped.

"If somebody is cheering loud, it's different from somebody being abusive," said Victoria Azarenka, a three-time U.S. Open finalist. "I think that as long as there is no abuse, I think that cheering loud is something that's part of the sport."

Chair umpires frequently urge fans to be courteous to players, or ask for quiet. But with some patrons heading directly to one of the drinking establishments on site well before heading to their seats, good luck

getting all of them to cooperate.

"Everyone past 3 p.m. is drunk as hell, just having an unbelievable time," Frances Tiafoe, a 2022 semifinalist, said before the tournament. "The ref has no shot at controlling that atmosphere."

It's clearly bothering some players.

Daniil Medvedev was aggravated by some cheering between his first and second serves, saying it was grounds for the fans' removal.

Laura Siegemund was in tears after her first-round loss to Coco Gauff, upset at what she felt was overly harsh treatment by the fans.

Medvedev, the 2021 U.S. Open champion, said outbursts between serves are not just a nuisance. He said some players bounce the ball 10 or more times before they serve, giving them time to refocus if a fan shouts.

But he takes only two or three and wants to hit quickly, and believes rules protect him from someone trying to prevent it.

"Again, if the rule one day is going to change, I'm not going to argue against this anymore, because that's the rule," Medvedev said. "For the moment, the rule on the tennis court (is) you cannot do it. □"

Carl Nassib, first openly gay player to play in NFL games, announces his retirement

By **The Associated Press**

Edge rusher Carl Nassib, the NFL's first openly gay player to play in a regular-season game, announced his retirement on Wednesday. Nassib came out in 2021 while with the Las Vegas Raiders. He spent last season with the Tampa Bay Buccaneers.

"This is a bittersweet moment for me but after seven seasons and just over 100 NFL games I am offi-

cially retiring from football to focus on my company Rayze," Nassib wrote on Instagram. "It really feels like just yesterday starting out as a walk-on at Penn State. 'Football has given me more than I ever could have imagined. I can truly hang up my helmet for the last time knowing I gave it everything I had. Growing up I loved how fun football was. I loved the pursuit of perfection. I loved

the small window where every player has to chase their dreams. It makes it all the more exciting if you get there. It was always my dream to play in the NFL, even as a walk-on, and I really feel like the luckiest guy on the planet.'"

The 30-year-old Nassib, a third-round pick by the Browns in 2016, had 25 1/2 sacks in seven seasons with Cleveland, Las Vegas and two stints in Tampa Bay. □



Tampa Bay Buccaneers linebacker Carl Nassib looks on during an NFL football game against the Carolina Panthers Sunday, Oct. 23, 2022, in Charlotte, N.C.

Associated Press

'It's what I do.' Patriots' Bill Belichick engaged, optimistic entering his 49th season in NFL

By KYLE HIGHTOWER

AP Sports Writer

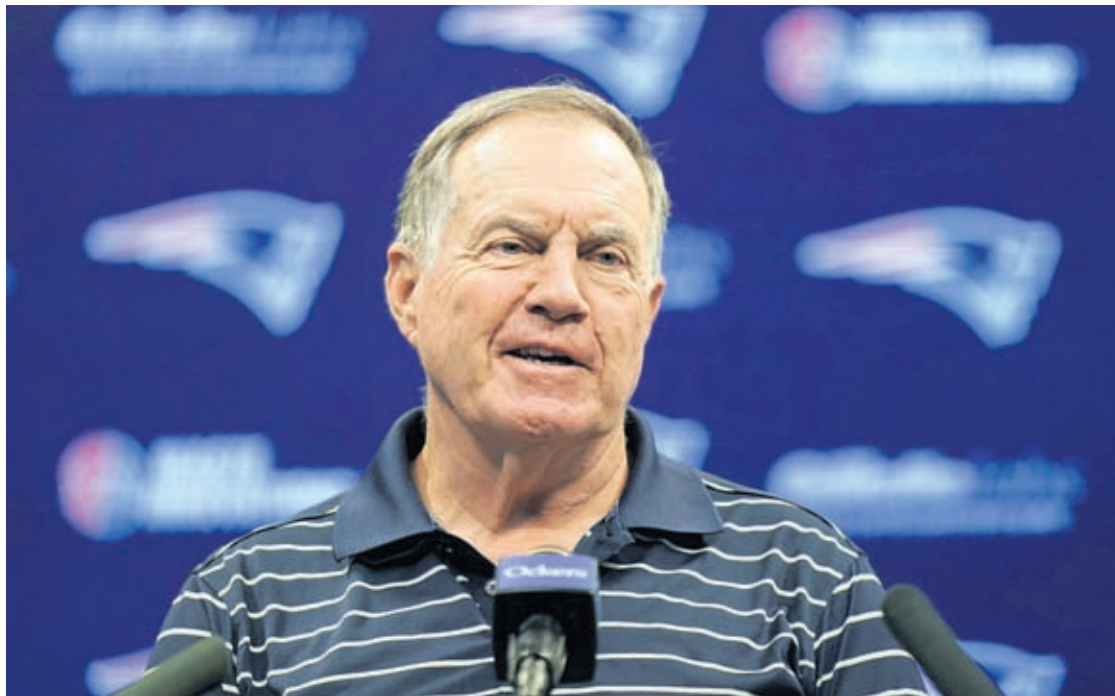
FOXBOROUGH, Mass. (AP)

— Depending on the day and the team the Patriots happen to be preparing for in a given week Bill Belichick can display both his reverence for NFL history and his ambivalence about anything that has to do with the past.

Ask him about what the Pittsburgh Steelers and legacy of Art Rooney have meant to the league and his praise is nearly endless.

Yet a query about a past Patriots' Super Bowl run or even a recent meeting with an opponent often elicits a variation of "the past doesn't matter."

But as Belichick, 71, pre-



New England Patriots head coach Bill Belichick faces reporters during a news conference before an NFL football practice, Wednesday, Sept. 6, 2023, in Foxborough, Mass.

Associated Press

pares for his 49th season in the NFL and 29th as a head coach, his history and the present are inextricably linked in the twilight of his future Hall of Fame career. Belichick leads New England into Sunday's season opener against the defending NFC champion Philadelphia Eagles with 329 career victories (including playoffs), leaving him 19 shy of passing Don Shula (347) for the most in NFL history.

Still, he made clear on Wednesday that nearly five decades' worth of scouting and game preparations haven't dimmed his excitement in advance of his latest NFL season.

Working to remain relevant in what is expected to be a competitive AFC East this season will be another story for these Patriots.

Coming off an 8-9 finish in 2022 in which their offense finished in the bottom half of the league in several categories, all eyes will be trained on that group on a weekly basis.

That is especially true this week opposite an Eagles team that returns seven starters from a defense that ranked second in total defense and first against the pass last season.

After spending most of the spring and training camp under scrutiny as the team adjusted to changes brought in by new offensive coordinator Bill O'Brien, Patriots tight end Hunter Henry thinks improvement will be noticeable.

"It's just the consistent nature that we've gone about every single day," he said. "I'm confident of the guys. ... I feel like we have a lot of talent in that room, and I think a lot of guys are excited to go out there and show it."

Running back Rhamondre Stevenson believes O'Brien's attention to detail has helped everyone stay engaged.

"The plays we run they have a meaning. And if we buy into them, it should be successful," Stevenson said. □



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